

June 1, 2011
SPC Meeting

In attendance: Anneta, Carrie, Susan, Maria, Lindsey, Heshan, Bill, Julie, Jill, Domenic

SSC Update (Anneta)

BUILDING

If all works, main number will be lower school phone number.

Jeff is moving his office to the lower school, and Mr. Diaz will move to upper school (idea is that they will trade spaces each year to keep better access/knowledge of parents.)

Will use some teacher admin time that there is always a teacher positioned in main office to answer phone/door to alleviate Maria & Betty having to take on office duties.

Family Resource Room will open up space-wise to allow more facilities for parents.

DIVERSITY

Plans being developed for staff PD in mid- to late-August. Jeff wants SSC and parent input re: content with proposal being to focus on how we deal with issues of diversity within the school. He put up posters related to anti-homophobic issues and they were ripped down, proof that this is a hot issue for parents and staff. Next SSC meeting will be Monday, June 13 and will be devoted to this issue, with consensus for desire to be more practical than just “touchy feely” (i.e. no excuses for bad behavior or bad academic performance, divisiveness of AWC) yet many different ways to approach such policy, expectations, rules, enforcement, etc. Need to bring many voices to the table. All encouraged to attend.

Need to recruit parents of color and different socio-economic classes to get involved in SSC/SPC next year, and how to get them to stay. Some way to connect with those who are attending the principal’s breakfasts? It has become a powerful force for Latino parents to make their voices heard, and Betty has a few families that she would like to ask to help lead this effort. We need to work on building a bridge, finding a liaison to school governance. But there is no platform for African-American parents and this is a liability. Challenge is also what role should parents have in these PD programs?

LUNCH ROOM

Discussion re: getting round tables for the lunch room and make efforts to mix and mingle the kids, possibly in a more formal way, and to consider the staffing.

UNIFORMS

No vote but uniform policy will continue. Cheap place to purchase uniforms on American Legion Hwy.

COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER OF BOSTON (Bill)

General concern that we must enrich the curriculum at all grades and this is an easy, inexpensive way to do so, especially in light of losing 2 drama teachers next year.

David Diaz, Bill and they met a couple of weeks ago, put \$\$ aside for that mtg: Malagodi K1-3 for (30 weeks vs 13 weeks), recorder in 4th, (30 weeks), violin in 5th (30 weeks, half a class at a time), and drama/performing arts program grades 6-8 (30 weeks, with inclusion) to hopefully integrate with music teacher. Many logistics but seems that it can work. Quoted \$57k price tag: they contribute \$18k, we've paid \$13k and agreed to go up to \$23k, leaving \$15.5k. Many other schools contribute to this so Bill sent proposal to Jeff to consider but is concerned he can't get it into the budget for next year, but he does have access to pockets of money.

Some concerns include that one need for grades 6-8 is to enrich curriculum AND give teachers time for prep so will this meet those criteria? Would students be allowed to bring the instruments home to practice?

If we are looking to save money, could we eliminate the violin and recorder if our music teacher is with those same kids and develops a program. That may be a way to make the numbers work.

Note: Much of the impetus of this meeting came out of losing Martin Thompson as parent coordinator and desire to formalize the program. We need to consider also whether there is one way or another to avoid losing such programs to cuts in the future.

David Jackson is doing an assessment of the instruments received by VH1 grant, many of which are being banged up. Proposal that SPC pay \$1000-\$2000 to have them repaired over the summer.

- **Julie** to email Mirna to see if there are VH1 contacts that we may approach to see if there are resources available to take care of such damage.

TEACHER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Scheduled for Monday, June 27 – **Bill** to coordinate with other parents, food from Fiores

NATURE'S CLASSROOM (Jill)

Folks brainstormed relationships at a recent SSC mtg and came up with the idea of suggesting Nature's Classroom as a possible entity to explore. Jill has a friend in Hollison where kids participate, they go for a week in 6th grade (as a grade) to Groton or Charleton, into the country to learn about the outdoors and general experiential learning. Many choices including season, number of kids, etc. Parents

can go as can teachers, who are not required to teach. Weekends discouraged. Offers a great way to build community across differences, break down barriers, and is a powerful, uniting “life changing” experience. Director in Charleton, MA would come to do a presentation to parents and kids.

Most expensive option is \$357/kid including food and lodging, but transportation not included. Maybe that is something the parent council could consider supplementing. They do have financial aid for individuals but might discuss doing it as a group. We could make it work out. Didn't ask about bilingual but likely have this as well. Mattahunt School has done this program. Find out how they pay for it.

- How would this compare to Thompson Island overnight program?
- 8th grade goes to Washington DC (SPC contributed \$1000 toward this program)
- St. Croix is a limited pool of 7th and 8th grade kids

Jill will follow up with Jeff and report that SPC is enthusiastic.

UPDATE RE: PROVISIONAL TEACHERS (Carrie)

Fourth grade teacher Constantinos is provisional yet he subbed for a year so seemed that he could stay: his job was posted, then seemed that he was set to remain at the Curley in accordance with the Union, but then got to access pool so starting again with HR. Jeff may ask the parents to get involved as advocates for this disappointing outcome. He is a teacher who lives in JP and comes to every event, he also student taught with Mr. Madrid and all the 3rd graders are looking forward to having him, especially with 25 new 4th graders entering to fill every seat in 2 reg ed classes. There is no SEI above 2nd grade currently but it grows each year with the current 2nd grade class.

Carrie to check with Constantinos and decide how/why to follow up with HR and Union reps.

YARD SALE made about \$500. Jesse seemed happy.

PLANT SALE did great by selling leftovers at WOTE, cleared \$3,000. Learned it is weather dependent but not WOTE dependent, and became more of a community event.

INTERNATIONAL WEEK was great. Performance and community evening was a success.

CURLEY CLEAN-UP WITH BOSTON CARES was successful. Boston Beer Works wants to return this summer en masse to do a deep cleaning of the school.

BATHROOM COMMITTEE UPDATE (Domenic)

Jeff says that bathrooms are the highest priority for the custodians. Plans to present them to the kids early in the year; however, main issue seems to be towels, soap, toilet paper, etc. Conditions are appalling and some kids are choosing not to go to the bathroom, which becomes a health issue. This is about climate, especially for the 4th graders, and respecting kids. What message is this sending to the kids? Seems that nobody cares about the kids and their privacy and health.

Domenic did a walkabout at 4pm on a Friday afternoon to inspect the bathrooms. His handout rates cleanliness, wastebaskets, paper towels, soap, toilet paper, graffiti, lockable stalls and general comments. Upstairs are worse than the downstairs. Some toilets have no locks and/or no toilet paper. Can't we get wall blowers rather than paper towels that run out? Need to establish a "broken glass" syndrome that we any and all graffiti should be addressed.

If there is an issue of the minor repairs and supplies, we will order and get installed. Target would be to get this addressed before the beginning of next school year to set a tone.

What is the next step? Take this to Jeff, or to BPS? Need to raise as an issue at the next SSC meeting. There is a health code issue at stake. Talk to the Curley Chronicle, ask Mr. Lawrence have a student reporter follow you around.

This is the most important of a large stack of work orders that are going unfulfilled. This may need to be kicked up to a higher level of facilities. We should sit down with BPS and speak with the Superintendent's office. We're being team players, enduring cuts, being active and raising money, but these issues of physical plant are unacceptable. We could get the kids involved?

Domenic/Julie to work with Jeff, David et al to compile list of work orders.

UPCOMING DATES

1. June 7th (9:30-11:30am) – spring concert
2. Going forward we will set dates for welcome back, kindergarten welcomes, Fall Fling, performances, open houses, SPC/SSC meetings, consider holidays
3. Need to set date for another meeting before the end of school to focus on setting dates and plan for meeting with Superintendent/Facilities:
June 21 @ 6pm